

evangelism and the young family traveled across the United States preaching in churches, youth camps, Bible schools and speaking to teens in public schools.

In 1991, after preaching one Sunday at the 250-member Cornerstone Church in Madison, Tennessee, Maury was offered the position of Senior Pastor. He accepted that appointment and has led Cornerstone to its current average attendance of 2,200 people every Sunday. He is also serving as an Executive Presbyter of the Tennessee District of the Assemblies of God.

We welcome Pastor Maury Davis to the House of Representatives today.

TAXATION'S EVIL TWIN

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will take up the second component of our careers initiative to unshackle the national economy and unleash the potential of the American people on the global market.

Last week, we passed three major bills to help doctors, patients and consumers retake control of the American health care system from government bureaucrats and trial lawyers. This week we are setting our sights on an even bigger target, the invisible monster of the Federal regulatory state.

Today, in America, Federal regulations cost American consumers and companies more than \$800 billion a year, about \$8,000 for an average American family every year. That is more than that family spends on food. Those \$800 billion could be saved, invested, used to train employees or create millions of new jobs.

We in the Republican majority think it is about time that that money was put toward those better uses than being swallowed up by Beltway bureaucrats and outdated rules and regulations. That is why we will take up legislation this week that reforms four aspects of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, to bring parity and common sense back to the regulatory review and citation process.

We will also take up major legislation specifically targeting the massive amounts of paperwork that consume not only hundreds of thousands of man-hours and millions of trees every year, but upwards of \$320 billion as well. Because when you think about this kind of job-killing, career-stagnating menace, Mr. Speaker, you realize that regulation is just taxation's evil twin. All you have to do is imagine the Internal Revenue Code dressed in black with an eye-patch and you have got the Federal Register.

For decades, layer upon layer of rules and regulations, many of them duplicative and many more of them self-contradictory, have been foisted upon the American people, their employers and their employees. The time has come for Congress to begin moving toward uni-

versal regulatory reform and looking for new ways to reduce and eliminate bureaucratic red tape.

This week, we will begin that process and allow the American people to go back to work for their customers and clients instead of their Federal overseers in Washington, D.C.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Are we in the 1-minute section of the calendar?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is recognizing Members for 1-minute speeches.

Mr. McDERMOTT. And the Chair is keeping time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair accords traditional treatment to the party leaders.

911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, every day in America there are over 150,000 911 calls made from a cell phone. This represents more than 25 percent of all 911 calls made in our country. Each one of these calls is singly one of the most important ones that an individual will make. Yet most Americans would be shocked to learn that the majority of our country's Public Safety Answering Points still do not have Enhanced 911, or E-911, technology needed to track the location of the emergency caller on their mobile phone. This is unacceptable. Most, if not all, mobile phone users buy them for the added security of knowing that if they need to make a 911 call, help will be on the way shortly.

I am proud that the House, supported by the E-911 Caucus, passed legislation providing Federal grants to enhance our emergency communications system and make E-911 a reality. Now it is time for the other body to act. With so much weighing on these calls, we have to do everything we can to accelerate the deployment of this lifesaving technology.

ARE YOU BETTER OFF?

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the question that President-to-be Ronald Reagan made famous in the debate in 1980: "Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?"

The answer, of course, for most Americans is "no." Under President Bush and the Republican Congress, most Americans have suffered. If you

are a taxpayer, you are not better off. We went from a budget that was in balance in 1999, the deficit was zero, and on a path to a \$5.6 trillion surplus to one now that is half a trillion dollars in debt this year alone.

If you are a senior, you are not better off because prescription drug costs for seniors have skyrocketed 44 percent in the last 4 years. And what do they get but a hoax of a prescription drug bill.

If you are a student, you are not better off because the Bush administration has underfunded the No Child Left Behind Act by \$27 billion since 2001 and wants to cut funding for higher education by \$1.3 billion while college tuition has increased by 28 percent.

If you are a worker, you are not better off because 2.2 million jobs have been lost and the unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, one-third higher than the 4.2 percent when President Bush took office. And workers are not better off because wages have failed to keep pace with inflation. Wages rose a mere nickel between March and April.

If you are a consumer, you are not better off because gas prices have increased from \$1.26 to a record \$2.01 a gallon since President Bush took office.

In the next few days, we will be offering further lists of grievances of the reckless policies of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress. Clearly, we are not better off since President Bush took office.

COMMUNICATION FROM SOLDIER STATIONED IN IRAQ

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we celebrate the greatest generation, our World War II veterans. I am here to say that I think we have the next greatest generation, and that is our men and women serving today around the world. This is an e-mail from one of them:

"Thank you, sir, for the note. I appreciate your concern for the troops stationed in Iraq. I am flying Blackhawks based in Balad, Iraq. I am currently working with another West Point graduate, a very capable infantry officer from the class of 2001, in developing an Air QRF team to respond to mortar and rocket attacks on the air base. We have been operational for about 10 days and are still refining our tactics and writing SOPs, but it is going well. I am impressed with the commitment the Army has made to good food, hot showers and decent living conditions.

"I have spent 16 years training, burned countless gallons of jet fuel and have flown over 1,800 hours in preparation for this deployment, and I am proud to serve and give the country something back for all it has invested in me.

"I have a wife and two young boys. I miss them very much. We are blessed

with close family and friends, and it is a comfort to know that they are well cared for in my absence. My mom has always been a special source of comfort in difficult times. I speak with her often and just today received a box of her homemade cookies.

"Thanks for taking the time to offer your support. I believe our task here is a difficult one. I hope we will stay the course."

To this young man, I say, we will.

ARE YOU BETTER OFF?

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Yes, it was a famous American who once asked, "Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?" To most Americans, the answer is "no." That is not just me saying it. A Gallup poll found that 62 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with the way things are going here at home.

There is a reason why a majority of Americans believe that our country is headed in the wrong direction under the leadership of President Bush. Median income has dropped 3.3 percent since President Bush was elected.

Two million Americans have lost their jobs since President Bush got his.

Three-and-a-half million people have moved onto the poverty rolls since President Bush moved into the White House.

Four million more people are uninsured since President Bush was sworn in.

Our constituents are being gouged at the gas pump while President Bush fills his campaign coffers with checks from big oil and big gas.

Consumer confidence, which was at 115.7 in January 2001, was at 92.9 last month.

College tuition, up 14 percent in 1 year.

We are not better off.

ARE YOU BETTER OFF?

(Mr. NUSSLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NUSSLE. It is hard to believe that the Democrats are coming to the floor today and trying to spread fear and make sure that people feel that they are not better off. They ask the question, Are you better off than 4 years ago? They hope you are not. Republicans not only hope you are, but will work to make sure you are.

The Democrats have no plan to balance the budget. All they offer from their nominee is higher taxes and bigger government. The seniors, for the first time since the Medicare plan was put into place in 1965, have choices as a result of a Republican Congress and President Bush.

Students have received two times the increase of education funding since Re-

publicans took office, three times for special education alone.

We have more workers working in this country than at any time in American history.

We had the strongest growth in the last 6 months. In the last 20 years we have not seen this kind of growth.

Interest rates are at the lowest ever.

The other side has stopped an energy plan going on now 6 years, and now they stand at the gas pump and wring their hands and wonder why gas prices are as high as they are.

Democrats hope you are not better off. Republicans will work to make sure you are better off.

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THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, a description of the Bush administration record of the last 3¼ years is something like this:

Not fully funding No Child Left Behind, unintelligent. Not providing a real benefit to seniors for prescription drug purposes, shameful. Not putting forth a real solution to significantly decrease the 44 million uninsured, bad medicine. Weapons of mass destruction, a lie. No-bid contracts for the Vice President's former company Halliburton, scandalous. Revealing the name of a covert CIA operative, traitorous. The Abu Ghraib fiasco, passing the buck. The management of the Iraq War, bumbling. The promise of no nation-building, forgotten. Being a uniter as opposed to a divider, hilarious.

The promise of a less arrogant foreign policy, you have got to be kidding me.

H.R. 3722, THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, Congress has consistently approved the eligibility of undocumented immigrants to receive emergency services, and I firmly believe that providing emergency health care is not inconsistent with curbing illegal immigration, which continues to be a high priority for me and others here.

H.R. 3722, which we discussed yesterday and will be voting on today, would require hospitals to gather information on patients in emergency care situations, including a biometric indicator to be retained in hospital records for a minimum of 5 years. This data would be transmitted to the Department of Homeland Security to initiate the removal proceedings for undocumented immigrants.

Hospitals oppose H.R. 3722 because it will, in fact, compromise public safety. The American Hospital Association states: "H.R. 3722 could pose a significant public health threat for entire communities because the fear of deportation would inevitably preclude undocumented immigrants from seeking care for communicable diseases until these individuals are extremely ill."

Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything we can to ensure that we do not pass H.R. 3722.

THE STATE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the declining state of the economy. When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus and the Nation had created 22 million jobs in the previous 8 years. The country was experiencing the biggest drop in child poverty in a generation and the lowest poverty rate in 20 years.

Today, 8.2 million Americans are looking for work and the unemployment rate is 30 percent higher. 2.2 million private sector jobs and 2.7 million manufacturing jobs have been lost. Household income has decreased by almost \$1,500 per family. The number of the uninsured has increased by 3.8 million. College tuition is up 28 percent.

As busy as we are and as important as the effort on foreign policy is, I hope this administration would dedicate some of its time to economic security as well. The American people have suffered much from terrorism. They do not need to suffer any more from President Bush's faltering and failed economic policies.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin is a name synonymous with compassion, love, and energy.

As the President of Barry University for the past 23 years in my hometown of Miami, Sister Jeanne has brought hope not only to our South Florida community but also to the international community. Sister Jeanne is known and loved by all of our South Florida residents. She is a dynamic and energetic champion for education and has worked tirelessly to ensure that Barry University far exceeded its goals. She has dedicated her entire life to education and to the improvement of the human condition. Sister Jeanne's concern for others and her willingness to fight for justice makes her an irreplaceable part of our South Florida family.

We have been blessed to have Sister Jeanne in our community. We love her,